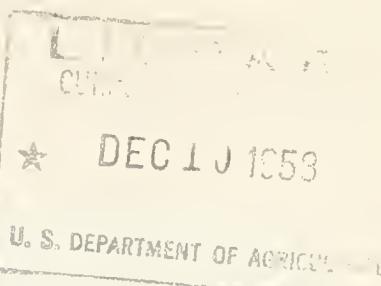


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

t2F 117 #23
p. 2

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



FOR RELEASE MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1958

VOLUME 77

CONTENTS

NUMBER 23

PAGE

COTTON

Norway Imports and Uses Less Cotton	4
India Reduces Cotton Export Tax	25
Denmark Imports More U. S. Cotton in 1957-58	25
Belgian Cotton Industry Less Active in 1957-58	26

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

1958 Arrivals of Australian Butter and Cheese in U. K. Down	8
West Germany Announces Global Import Tender for Canned Poultry	8
U. K. Increases Dollar Quota for Cheese	8
Australia Reduces Price of Low-Quality Butter	27

FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS

India Announces Export Quota for Sesame Seed	22
Uruguayan Vegetable Oil Outlook Generally Favorable	22
Malayan Exports of Palm Oil, Palm Kernels Up in First Half of Year	24

FOREIGN TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

India Adopts State Trading in Food Grains	27
---	----

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

Indian 1958 Cashew Imports and Exports Rise	10
Turkish Raisin and Dried Fig Crops Estimated	12
Spanish Citrus Export Trade Sluggish	13
Sicilian Citrus Crops Up	13
Sweden To Allow Free Apple Imports in February	13
U. K. Increases Tariff Drawback on Almonds	13
Norwegian Apple and Pear Import Dates Delayed	14
Argentine Frost Hurts Pears	18

(Continued on following page)

CONTENTS (Continued)

	Page
GRAINS, FEEDS, SEEDS, AND HOPS	
Japan Samples Russian Wheat.....	9
Ireland Imposes Levy on Imported Wheat.....	10
Spain Reports Above-Average Wheat Crop.....	14
Australia Exports More Wheat, Less Flour.....	14
China Becomes Main Source of Ceylon's Rice Imports.....	16
Canadian Rice Imports Drop Slightly in First Half of 1958.....	17
South Vietnam Has Good Rice Crop.....	18
Egypt's Wheat Crop Down; 1959 Acreage To Increase.....	18
Japan's Wheat Imports Up in 1957-58.....	19
Brazil Increases Basic Support Price of Wheat 25 Percent.....	20
Finland Fixes 1958-59 Food Grain Support Prices.....	21
LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS	
Guatemala Bans Mexican Cattle.....	6
Russian Meat Exports Up Sharply.....	6
Ireland Insures Meat Exports to U. S.	7
World Wool Consumption Improves in Third Quarter of 1958.....	7
Australian Meat Shipments To U. S. in November.....	7
U.S.S.R. Plans Sharp Increase in Meat Production.....	9
Argentine Meat Shipments to U. S. in October-November.....	9
SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS	
Adverse Weather Affects Ghana's Cocoa Crop.....	5
Jamaica's 1958 Sugar Output Smaller Than Expected Earlier.....	5
TOBACCO	
Belgian Leaf Tobacco Usings Up Slightly in 1958.....	3
Syria Increases Tobacco Production.....	3
Ghana To Import U. S. Tobacco Direct.....	3
Thailand's Tobacco Imports Up, Exports Down in 1958.....	4
Burley Production Rises in Morocco.....	4
Smaller Yugoslav Tobacco Crop.....	4

000

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the Nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the United States.

Foreign Crops and Markets is distributed only upon a request basis. If you find you have no need for this publication, please tear off the addressograph imprint with your name and address, pencil "drop" upon it, and send it to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5918, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

BELGIAN LEAF TOBACCO USINGS
UP SLIGHTLY IN 1958

Factory usings of unmanufactured tobacco in Belgium increased slightly in the first half of 1958 to 28.5 million pounds, compared with 28.4 million pounds in the first 6 months of 1957.

Leaf for cigarettes showed the largest gain--up 0.4 million pounds to a total of 14.4 million for January-June 1958, compared with 14.0 million pounds a year earlier. There was a slight gain in use of tobacco for snuff, but leaf usings for all other products declined from January-June 1957.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Belgium, usings by type of product, 1957 and January-June 1957 and 1958

Product	Calendar	January-June	
	Year	1957	1958
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Cigars.....	1,894	924	910
Cigarillos.....	4,590	2,361	2,189
Cigarettes.....	28,532	14,009	14,427
Smoking mixtures.....	22,826	11,009	10,864
Other.....	1/	99	113
Total.....	57,842	28,402	28,503

1/ Not available.

SYRIA INCREASES TOBACCO PRODUCTION

Preliminary reports indicate that Syria's 1958 tobacco crop amounted to 15.0 million pounds--up 14 percent from 1957. Syria's goal is to supply Egypt with at least 11 million pounds of tobacco annually. Sample shipments of Syrian leaf have been tried in Cairo and found satisfactory. The Egyptians are especially interested in the oriental varieties--Prilep and Samsun--production of which totaled about 2 million pounds this year. Second-choice is the semi-oriental varieties. A little tombac for water-pipes is also desired.

GHANA TO IMPORT U.S.
TOBACCO DIRECT

The installation of shredding machinery in 1959 will allow the cigarette manufacturer in Ghana to import leaf tobacco directly. At present the company imports a shredded blend of U.S., Indian, and Rhodesian leaf from the United Kingdom. In 1957, about 2.2 million pounds of shredded tobacco was imported from the United Kingdom; also about 300,000 thousand pounds were imported from Nigeria. Most of the imports from Nigeria consisted of Ghana leaf that had been sent there for processing.

The factory now uses about 2.5 million pounds of leaf annually but hopes to be using about 5 million by 1962. Attempts are being made to increase domestic tobacco production to supply about one-half of future requirements. In 1957, only slightly more than 200 thousand pounds of cigarette tobacco were grown in Ghana. The United Ghana Farmers' Council, however, has requested government assistance in expanding leaf production.

THAILAND'S TOBACCO IMPORTS UP, EXPORTS DOWN IN 1958

During the first 9 months of 1958, Thailand imported a total of 9.2 million pounds of unmanufactured tobacco--up 18 percent from the 7.8 million imported during a similar period of 1957. All but a few thousand pounds of imports in both years were of U.S. flue-cured leaf. The Thai Tobacco Monopoly has found that substantial percentages of high-quality U.S. leaf must be blended with domestic leaf to produce cigarettes consumers like best.

Exports of Thai leaf tobacco--mostly low-quality flue-cured--dropped from 14.8 million pounds in January-September 1957 to 9.7 million for January-September 1958. Communist China was the leading market in both periods. The average value of 1958 exports was equivalent to 34 U.S. cents per pound.

BURLEY PRODUCTION RISES IN MOROCCO

Production of Burley tobacco in Morocco rose in 1958 to 4.4 million pounds compared with 3.3 million in 1957. Burley is the principal type. Some dark air-cured and Nicotiana Rustica also are grown. Acreage of dark air-cured rose in 1958 but Nicotiana Rustica declined.

SMALLER YUGOSLAV TOBACCO CROP

The latest forecast of tobacco production in Yugoslavia places the 1958 crop at 86 million pounds, about 60 percent as large as the 1957 crop. Drought in Serbia, Kosmet and Macedonia has sharply reduced crops of oriental and semi-oriental leaf. Tobacco yields in all areas were smaller due to the late spring and consequent late plantings. Quality of the oriental and semi-oriental tobacco is, however, expected to be very good because of the dry season.

NORWAY IMPORTS AND USES LESS COTTON

Norway's cotton imports of 19,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during August-July 1957-58 were 30 percent below the high level of 27,000 bales in 1956-57.

Most of the 1957-58 imports were from the United States. Imports of U.S. cotton, 18,000 bales, accounted for 95 percent of total imports, compared with 25,000 bales or 93 percent of the total in 1956-57. In addition to the U.S. cotton, small quantities came from Peru, India, Paraguay, and Brazil.

Imports in 1958-59 are expected to be close to the 1957-58 level. However, the U.S. share of the Norwegian market probably will decline. Some shift to lower priced Mexican cotton has been reported in recent weeks.

Cotton consumption in Norway was about 9 percent lower in 1957-58, amounting to 21,000 bales, against 23,000 bales in 1956-57. No further decline is expected in 1958-59, as stocks of finished goods apparently have been reduced at both wholesale and retail levels. The demand for cotton goods is expected to continue favorable, at least through the first half of 1958-59. Orders held by spinning mills for short time deliveries are larger than a year ago.

Cotton stocks on July 31, 1958 were 5,000 bales, down 29 percent from the 7,000 bales held a year earlier.

ADVERSE WEATHER AFFECTS

GHANA'S COCOA CROP

Ghana's 1958-59 main crop of cocoa may be about 10 percent less than estimated earlier. Weather was dry during the growing season; rains then slowed down harvesting and fermenting of the crop.

Cocoa purchases began September 22--a week earlier than last year. Through November 15, they totaled about 71,000 tons, compared with 74,000 tons through the same date last year.

JAMAICA'S 1958 SUGAR OUTPUT SMALLER THAN EXPECTED EARLIER

Jamaica's 1958 sugar production is now placed at 391,000 short tons, 41,000 below earlier estimates. This is nearly 6 percent below 1957 and 10.5 percent less than the 1959 crop forecast.

Drought during the first 4 months of 1958, followed by 3 months of very heavy rains, reduced cane production to only 3,625,000 short tons, compared with 3,795,000 short tons the previous season. The unfavorable weather reduced not only the quantity of cane available for sugar but the sucrose content as well.

Because of the reduction in the 1958 production estimate, the export quotas assigned to Jamaica under the Commonwealth Agreement had to be revised downward so that Jamaica would have enough sugar for its domestic needs this year.

GUATEMALA BANS MEXICAN CATTLE

Guatemala has prohibited the importation of Mexican cattle for a period of 2 years to protect its cattle from diseases. If Guatemalan animals were to become infected with foot-and-mouth disease, the country could not export frozen beef to the United States.

RUSSIAN MEAT EXPORTS
UP SHARPLY

Exports of meat and meat products from the U.S.S.R. during 1957 were $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as large as shipments in 1956. Most of the exports were fresh or frozen meats to Europe. Exports during 1958 are expected to continue high.

Russian meat imports, however, were 44 percent below 1956. Communist China, which exported 126.5 million pounds of meat and meat products to the U.S.S.R. in 1957, continued to be the largest source of Russian meat imports, supplying mostly fresh and frozen pork. Russian meat imports during 1958 will depend to a large extent upon Communist China's ability to export pork. Pork production has risen in Communist China this year, but the extent of this rise is very doubtful (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 6, 1958).

During 1957, the Soviet Union was the world's third largest importer of meat, and the world's ninth largest meat exporter.

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS: U.S.S.R., trade (product weight), 1955-57

Classification	1955	1956	1957
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds
Imports:			
Fresh and frozen.....	504,400	411,400	198,900
Poultry.....	6,600	5,300	9,000
Salt pork.....	900	1,100	900
Canned.....	18,100	31,400	39,300
Other.....	2,400	7,800	9,400
Total.....	527,600	457,000	257,500
Exports:			
Fresh and frozen.....		68,100	164,000
Canned.....		500	4,700
Other.....		300	000
Total.....	24,500	68,800	168,700

Source: Trade Statistics of the USSR.

IRELAND INSURES MEAT
EXPORTS TO U.S.

The Irish Ministry of Industry and Commerce is insuring Irish meat exports against U.S. rejection if foot-and-mouth disease should occur in Ireland. The United States does not permit meat imports from foot-and-mouth disease areas. The Irish Export Promotion Board, which recommended the insurance plan, hopes that it will encourage meat shipments to the United States and thus earn Ireland much-needed dollar exchange.

U.S. imports of Irish boneless beef amounted to 12.8 million pounds during the first 8 months of 1958, a sharp rise from the 3.6 million pounds imported during the same period a year earlier.

WORLD WOOL CONSUMPTION IMPROVES
IN THIRD QUARTER OF 1958

Raw wool consumption during the third quarter of 1958 in the 10 countries which report to the International Wool Study Group was down 3 percent from the second quarter and 9 percent below a year earlier. However, since there were fewer working days in the third quarter, the rate of consumption improved slightly from the previous quarter.

This reversal of the downward trend in wool consumption which began a year earlier was the result of increased mill use in the United States. In the other 9 countries, the rate of consumption in the third quarter was the same as in the previous quarter.

Total consumption of raw wool during January-September 1958 in the 10 countries was 1,235 million pounds, clean basis--down 14 percent from a year earlier. Consumption of other materials (such as reprocessed wool and man-made fibers) by the wool textile industry declined 10 percent during the same period. Stocks of raw wool in 7 countries at the end of September were 12 percent below a year earlier.

AUSTRALIAN MEAT SHIPMENTS TO
U.S. IN NOVEMBER

The following sailings from Australia to U.S. ports were reported between November 5 and November 11. Meat cargos were frozen beef.

Ship	:	Port of destination	:	Quantity (Long tons)
	:		:	
Port Huon.....	:	New York	:	1,242.4
Pioneer Isle.....	:	New York	:	85.0
Port St. John.....	:	New York	:	94.3
Oronsay.....	:	San Francisco	:	65.0

1958 ARRIVALS OF AUSTRALIAN BUTTER AND CHEESE IN U.K. DOWN

For the 10 months ending October 31, 1958, arrivals of Australian butter in British ports totaled 62.5 million pounds, against 77.6 million pounds in comparable 1957. September 1958 arrivals, at 7.4 million pounds, were up 5.9 million pounds from September 1957, but October arrivals this year dropped to 6.2 million pounds from 7.8 million in October last year.

Cheese arrivals in October 1958 came to only 123,000 pounds, compared with 620,000 pounds in October 1957. Arrivals for the 10-month January-October period totaled 5.4 million pounds--a drop of 12 million pounds from the same period of 1957.

November arrivals of both butter and cheese, however, are expected to be appreciably higher than last year.

WEST GERMANY ANNOUNCES GLOBAL IMPORT TENDER FOR CANNED POULTRY

A new import tender for canned poultry from both dollar and soft currency countries was announced by West Germany on November 18, 1958.

Principal provisions of the new tender are: (1) Applications for import licenses must be submitted by November 27, 1958; (2) No customs clearance deadline; (3) License applications of individual importers are limited to DM 20,000 (\$4,780) inclusive, all countries of origin.

U.S. exports of canned chicken to West Germany in 1957 amounted to only 31,000 pounds. However, exports of canned poultry, including some turkey, from January through September 1958 came to 395,000 pounds.

U.K. INCREASES DOLLAR QUOTA FOR CHEESE

The British Government has increased its dollar quota for natural (unprocessed) cheese from North America by \$1.4 million for the current fiscal year. This is in addition to the usual \$4.2 million annual quota, of which over \$3 million was used last month to buy cheddar cheese from Canada (see Foreign Crops and Markets, December 1, 1958).

Supplies of New Zealand and Australian cheddar cheese in the United Kingdom have dwindled from a heavy surplus in early 1958 to a relative shortage. Prices have advanced from 16 cents per pound in the earlier period to about 36 cents in mid-November.

**U.S.S.R. PLANS SHARP INCREASE
IN MEAT PRODUCTION**

The Soviet 7-Year Plan for the period 1959-65 calls for a 117 percent increase in meat deliveries. Deliveries during 1958 were reported at about 6.2 billion pounds (about half of total production), and planned deliveries for 1965 are 13.5 billion pounds.

The Foreign Agricultural Service estimated U.S.S.R. red meat production in 1957 at 10.8 billion pounds. During the previous 7-year period (1951-57) Russian red meat production is estimated to have risen 45 percent.

As the ratio of deliveries to production has been increasing, the gain in deliveries planned for 1959-65 may not come entirely from increased output.

**ARGENTINE MEAT SHIPMENTS TO U.S.
IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER**

From October 24 through November 4, 13 ships left Argentine ports with meat for the United States. Their cargos to original destinations were:

Port	:		Roast and	Salted	Corned
	Corned	frozen	and	and	
	beef	cooked	cured	cured	
		beef	beef		mutton
East Coast.....	Metric	Metric	Metric	Metric	Metric
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
East Coast.....	760	120	896	10	
Gulf and Florida.....	515	106	458	--	
West Coast.....	598	30	182	11	
Total.....	1,873	256	1,536	21	

JAPAN SAMPLES RUSSIAN WHEAT

Japan is making a trial purchase of semi-hard wheat from the U.S.S.R.; Ukrainian 1958 wheat is specified. The quantity--400 metric tons--may be increased to 2,000 tons.

Available records indicate this will be the first Russian wheat ever imported by Japan. In 1957-58, Japan was the leading dollar market for U.S. wheat.

IRELAND IMPOSES LEVY ON IMPORTED WHEAT

An Irish customs levy of £2 per long ton on wheat imports became effective November 15, 1958. This is equivalent to \$5.60 per long ton (2,240 pounds), or 15 cents per bushel.

In announcing the new tax, the government stated that the "temporary equalization levy" is expected to bring in at least £ 600,000 (\$1,680,000) which will help cover some of the losses which the Grain Board will incur in buying unmillable wheat under the government's 1958 price support program.

Even with the import levy, millers have estimated that the cost of their 1958-59 wheat purchases will be below 1957-58. They have agreed to pass the savings along to consumers by reducing the wholesale price of flour by about 3s. 9d. (52.5¢) per 280-pound sack. This would reduce the price to bakers from approximately 128s. 3d. (\$17.96) to 124s. 6d. (\$17.43) per sack. Effective November 17, 1958, the price of bread was reduced by a half-penny for a 4-pound loaf.

Preliminary estimates place Ireland's 1958 wheat crop at 340,000 long tons (12.7 million bushels), compared with 502,000 tons (18.7 million bushels) last year. According to Irish Department of Agriculture officials, about 240,000 tons are unfit for flour and will have to be sold for feed either locally or abroad. The Grain Board is now advertising feed wheat for sale in 3-ton lots at £24 (\$67.20) per long ton (\$1.80 cents per bushel) delivered to buyers' nearest railroad station.

Consumption requirements for 1958-59 (October-September) are estimated at 400,000 tons for milling, 30,000 tons for seed, and 175,000 tons for feed. Import requirements for the year are placed at 350,000 tons, of which 100,000 tons would be hard wheat, and 250,000 tons soft wheat.

INDIAN 1958 CASHEW IMPORTS AND EXPORTS RISE

Indian imports of raw cashews from East Africa are expected to reach a record 125,000 short tons during 1958. This is an increase of 16 percent over the 107,400-ton import total of 1957.

Indian cashew kernel exports during 1958 are forecast at 1,600,000 cases of 50 pounds each, or about 5 percent more than the 1,524,546 cases shipped during 1957. Indian raw cashew production during 1958, including 4,000 tons for Portuguese Goa, is estimated at 68,500 tons--about 11 percent less than the 77,000-ton output the previous season.

CASHEWS, IN-SHELL: India, supply and distribution,
(including estimate for Portuguese Goa) annual 1957 and 1958

Item	1957	1958
	Short tons	Short tons
Opening stocks.....	1,000	3,000
Production.....	77,000	68,500
Imports (East Africa).....	<u>1/107,400</u>	125,000
Total supply.....	<u>1/184,400</u>	196,500
Domestic consumption.....	7,000	7,000
Exports (in-shell equivalent).....	166,400	173,500
End stocks.....	3,000	16,500

1/ About 9,000 tons of total discarded because of inferior quality.

The 16,500 short tons of raw cashews remaining at the end of the 1958 season--largest carryover of recent years--are attributed to record imports from British and Portuguese East Africa. Under a new government import policy, effective from October 1958 through March 1959, licenses to bring in raw cashews are granted only to processors. The Indian trade does not believe the new ruling will noticeably affect the volume of raw nuts imported.

Cashew kernel exports from the 1958 crop amounted to 1,300,000 cases of 50 pounds each between January 1 and October 31, 1958. Approximate distribution according to importing countries was as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Percent of total</u>
United States	900,000 cases	69
Canada	50,000 "	4
Communist countries	175,000 "	13
United Kingdom	75,000 "	6
Australia and others	100,000 "	8

Raw cashews from East Africa averaged 11.72 cents per pound, c.i.f. Cochin, during 1957-58 while domestic Indian unshelled cashews averaged 12.19 cents per pound. Packed kernel prices for this period averaged 47 cents per pound, c.&f. New York. In early November 1958, cashew kernels for November and December shipment were quoted at 46 cents per pound, c.&f. New York, or 10 percent below the prices prevailing for corresponding periods during the two previous seasons.

TURKISH RAISIN AND DRIED FIG
CROPS ESTIMATED

The 1958 raisin crop in Turkey is estimated at 72,000 short tons. The 1957 crop has been estimated at 58,000 tons. Average Turkish production (1951-55) is 66,000 tons.

The 1958-59 supply, inclusive of carryover stocks, is believed to be 76,000 tons, compared with 1957-58 supplies of 80,000 tons. Exports in 1957-58 totaled 55,000 short tons. In view of short world supplies and the Turkish monetary reform, 1958-59 exports are likely to be at least as large as last season.

The 1958 Turkish dried fig pack is estimated at 33,000 tons, compared with 31,000 tons in 1957 and the 5-year average (1951-55) of 31,100 tons. As usual, no stocks were carried over from the previous season. Exports of around 24,000 short tons in 1957-58 consisted of 11,900 tons of edible dried figs, 3,300 tons of fig paste, and 8,600 tons of industrial-grade dried figs.

FRUITS, DRIED: Turkish exports by country of destination,
August 12, 1957, through August 31, 1958

Commodity and country of destination	Aug. 12, 1957	Aug. 31, 1958	Commodity and country of destination	Aug. 12, 1957	Aug. 31, 1958
	Short tons				Short tons
Raisins:			Figs, dried:		
United States.....	45		United States.....	41	
Austria.....	1,220		Belgium-Luxembourg..	684	
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	2,555		Bulgaria.....	220	
Czechoslovakia.....	2,607		Czechoslovakia.....	512	
Finland.....	581		Denmark.....	723	
Germany, East.....	1,715		France.....	1,429	
Germany, West.....	10,127		Germany, West.....	1,936	
Ireland.....	763		Hungary.....	331	
Italy.....	4,028		Norway.....	613	
Netherlands.....	4,829		Poland.....	220	
Poland.....	716		Sweden.....	1,628	
Switzerland.....	485		Switzerland.....	1,054	
United Kingdom.....	6,053		United Kingdom.....	1,408	
U.S.S.R.....	10,031		Other Europe.....	190	
Yugoslavia.....	662		Canada.....	41	
Other Europe.....	920		Brazil.....	304	
Israel.....	717		Cuba.....	158	
Other countries.....	383		Other countries....	446	
Total.....	1/ 48,437		Total.....	11,938	

1/ Turkish export data based on country of destination are approximately 6,600 tons short of the reported export total.

According to Turkish statistics, 1957-58 paste exports (August 12, 1957 through August 31, 1958) were as follows: 1,374 short tons to the United States; 1,357 to the United Kingdom; 521 to Canada; and 84 to Ireland.

Exports of figs for industrial use were reported as follows: 1,993 short tons to Austria; 264 to East Germany; 3,811 to West Germany; 2,205 to Italy; 331 to Switzerland; and 38 to other countries.

SPANISH CITRUS EXPORT TRADE SLUGGISH

Spanish citrus shippers report an unsettled market situation. Many shipments have been speculative, particularly to continental markets. U. K. importers have not shown much interest in Navels at current asking prices, and most Spanish exporters consider that the Continent offers better prospects at present.

SICILIAN CITRUS CROPS UP

Recent storms are believed to have caused some damage to lemons in the Messina area of Sicily. Trade estimates on the extent of the damage vary considerably. Sicily is still expected to have larger crops of both lemons and oranges than last year.

Current official estimates are for increases of 10 percent in Catania Province's lemon crop and 12 percent in Syracuse's harvest. The Catania orange crop is now expected to be up 10 percent over last season and that in Syracuse up 15 percent.

SWEDEN TO ALLOW FREE APPLE IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY

Sweden will not allow free imports of apples until February 11, 1959, as a result of the larger 1958 crop. Last year, when production was down, the beginning import date was December 9.

U.K. INCREASES TARIFF DRAWBACK ON ALMONDS

The British Government has increased the drawback of customs duty on imports of unblanched shelled almonds which are used in the manufacture for export of certain blanched almonds and marzipan.

Effective November 25, the drawback rate is increased from 35s. (\$4.90) to 43s. (\$6.02) per cwt. (112 pounds) on imports of unblanched shelled almonds used for exported blanched almonds; and for marzipan exports, the rate is increased from 35s. to 39s. (\$5.46) per cwt. on imports of unblanched shelled almonds.

NORWEGIAN APPLE AND PEAR IMPORT DATES DELAYED

Norway now expects domestic supplies of apples to last until early March and pears through December. Free imports of apples may therefore not start until about March 15 and pears about January 1. The past season's free import dates were January 15, 1958, and December 1, 1957, respectively.

SPAIN REPORTS ABOVE-AVERAGE WHEAT CROP

Spain's 1958 wheat harvest was above average, though not up to the high level of 1957. It is estimated at 162 million bushels, compared with 180 million in 1957. Two successive good crops have brought wheat supplies above domestic requirements, and export commitments total about 17 million bushels for the 1958-59 marketing season. Exports of both grain and flour are planned.

Wheat yields in 1958 averaged about 10 percent below the very good yields a year earlier. The lower yields were attributed to a number of factors, including spring drought in parts of Aragon and Catalonia, severe outbreaks of rust in some areas, summer storms, and a shortage of seasonal farm labor.

Consumption of bread grains is believed to have reached a peak in 1957-58 and is now declining. A reduction of 2 percent is forecast for 1958-59. Reduced bread consumption is mainly due to a more diversified diet, made possible by higher income levels. A recent increase in bread prices may also tend to bring about a shift to other foods.

AUSTRALIA EXPORTS MORE WHEAT, LESS FLOUR

Australian wheat exports during the first quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year are preliminarily estimated at 439,000 long tons (16 million bushels), against 306,000 tons (11 million bushels) during the first 3 months of 1957-58.

Shipments were relatively small last season because of the poor crop. However, a very good harvest is in prospect this season, and exportable supplies should be considerably higher during the remainder of the fiscal year than they have been for some months.

Flour exports during 1957-58 declined 247,000 long tons (9 million bushels) from 922,000 tons (34 million bushels) exported during 1956-57. July-September 1958 exports are estimated at 145,000 tons (5 million bushels), compared with 221,000 tons (8 million bushels) exported during the same months a year earlier. Export statistics by country of destination for July-September 1958 are not yet available.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: Australian exports by country of destination,
July 1957 and July 1958

Destination	July 1957			July 1958		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
Europe:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	2/	2/	2/	4,112	--	4,112
United Kingdom	27,325	4,589	31,914	60,216	4,219	64,435
Total	3/27,325	4,589	3/31,914	64,328	4,219	68,547
Asia:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Aden	2/	2,438	2,438	620	3,819	4,439
Burma	2/	3,779	3,779	--	1,810	1,810
Ceylon	2/	329	329	74	262	336
China (Communist)	2/	122	122	8,500	49	8,549
Hong Kong	3,122	1,115	4,237	1,991	356	2,347
Indonesia	2/	9,601	9,601	--	1,743	1,743
Iraq	2/	--	--	7,012	--	7,012
Japan	2/	--	--	3,800	--	3,800
Kuwait	2/	--	--	--	1,009	1,009
Malaya and Singapore	1,473	9,618	11,091	2,559	9,254	11,813
Pakistan	9,780	--	9,780	--	--	--
Philippines	2/	3,765	3,765	--	323	323
Saudi Arabia	2/	--	--	460	401	861
Arabia, n.e.s.	2/	--	--	--	376	376
Thailand	39	1,690	1,729	35	2,186	2,221
Others	2/	--	2/	--	233	233
Total	3/14,414	32,457	3/46,871	25,051	21,821	46,872
Africa:	:	:	:	:	:	:
British East Africa	--	3,168	3,168	--	477	477
Mauritius	--	2,066	2,066	--	1,378	1,378
Mozambique	8,818	179	8,997	--	--	--
Rhodesias-Nyasaland	2/	376	376	--	227	227
Others	13	106	119	--	369	369
Total	3/ 8,831	5,895	3/14,726	--	2,451	2,451
Oceania:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Australian Dependencies	10	433	443	7	1,241	1,248
New Zealand and Dependencies:	25,080	40	25,120	21,848	458	22,306
British Oceania	12	2,044	2,056	2	2,039	2,041
French Pacific Islands	47	1,352	1,399	11,567	269	11,836
Total	3/25,149	3,869	3/29,018	33,424	4,007	37,431
Unspecified	9,656	102	9,758	--	24	24
World total	85,375	46,912	132,287	122,803	32,522	155,325
Equivalent, 1000 bushels	3,187	1,752	4,939	4,585	1,214	5,799

1/ Grain equivalent. 2/ If any, included in "Unspecified". 3/ Total of indicated countries only.

CHINA BECOMES MAIN SOURCE OF CEYLON'S RICE IMPORTS

Ceylon's rice imports of 757 million pounds in January-September 1958 were 57 million pounds less than imports in the same months of 1957.

Communist China supplied Ceylon with 61 percent of its rice imports in the 9-month period this year, compared with 25 percent in the corresponding period last year. At the same time, imports from Burma and Thailand dropped sharply. A significant amount was taken from South Vietnam for the first time since 1952.

RICE: Ceylon, imports, quantity and value, January-September 1958,
with comparisons

Country of origin	January-September							
	1956		1957		1957		1958	
	Quantity	per unit	Quantity	per unit	Cost	Cost		
					c.i.f.	c.i.f.		
					Dollars	Dollars		
	1,000	1,000	1,000	per	1,000	per		
	pounds	pounds	pounds	100 lb.	pounds	100 lb.		
Burma.....	539,916	682,960	516,588	4.75	202,575	4.39		
China, Mainland..	542,656	358,384	201,055	4.66	462,790	4.58		
Egypt.....	0	0	0	0	54,030	4.73		
India.....	786	2,417	2,385	4.75	0	0		
Pakistan.....	8	0	0	0	5	5.06		
Spain.....	0	0	0	0	1,889	5.46		
Thailand.....	4	109,122	94,361	5.09	14,558	4.77		
Vietnam, South...	0	0	0	0	21,484	4.95		
Total.....	1,083,370	1,152,883	814,389	4.77	757,331	4.56		

Ceylon customs returns.

By mid-November, Ceylon's Food Commission had bought under contract 1,098 million pounds of rice--661 million from Communist China, 403 million from Burma, and 34 million from other countries. Arrivals up to the same time totaled (unofficially) 910 million pounds, of which 526 million were from Communist China and 353 million from Burma.

A trade delegation from China is expected to visit Ceylon in December to discuss prices and quantities of rice, rubber, and other commodities to be exchanged in 1959, the second year of the second 5-year pact between the two countries.

CANADIAN RICE IMPORTS DROP SLIGHTLY
IN FIRST HALF OF 1958

Rice imports into Canada in the January-June period were slightly less this year than in the corresponding months of 1957. A sharp drop in imports of milled rice was partly offset by a heavy increase in rough rice imports, chiefly from the United States.

However, imports of milled rice from the United States fell off sharply, so that total rice imports (in terms of milled) from the United States declined 12 percent. Imports from Argentina of both milled and rough rice continued to increase (see Foreign Crops and Markets, May 19, 1958), and a significant amount was imported from Hungary for the first time. Less rice was taken from Mexico.

RICE: Canadian imports by country of origin, annual 1954-57,
January-June 1957 and 1958

Country of origin	1954	1955	1956	1957	January-June	
					1957	1958
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Uncleaned 1/:						
Argentina.....	0	40,054	103,617	151,067	32,702	34,608
Belgium.....	0	0	41,812	0	0	0
Egypt.....	21,896	29,208	550	16,357	0	0
Hungary.....	0	0	0	0	0	21,781
Italy.....	0	97,001	16,535	63,550	0	0
Mexico.....	0	0	0	40,938	40,938	33,267
Thailand.....	0	13,207	22,180	8,804	0	0
Uruguay.....	0	14,548	17,085	39,539	0	13,793
United States.....	640,973	373,826	198,832	122,047	70,535	101,892
Other countries.....	1,564	14,355	45,425	1,075	0	0
Total.....	664,433	582,199	446,036	443,377	144,175	205,341
Cleaned:						
Argentina.....	20,943	8,775	95,571	110,115	46,329	55,756
Australia.....	11,234	5,643	63,309	0	0	0
Brazil.....	0	0	122,355	0	0	0
Italy.....	880	4,725	1,236	14,164	5,135	2,313
Mexico.....	0	0	0	55,118	55,118	35,972
Netherlands.....	3,664	10,170	3,625	2,398	149	3,227
Uruguay.....	0	0	59,372	12,952	2,205	0
United States.....	212,868	297,476	223,668	274,577	134,969	83,671
Other countries.....	2/47,399	4,323	23,363	12,900	4,766	315
Total.....	296,988	331,112	592,499	482,224	248,671	181,254

1/ Uncleaned, unhulled, paddy. 2/ 30,864 cwt. from Peru.

Source: Trade of Canada.

SOUTH VIETNAM HAS GOOD RICE CROP

South Vietnam's 1958-59 rice crop is expected to be the largest in post-war years. The acreage increased, and conditions have been generally favorable. A recent trade estimate of the crop (harvested mainly from September to February) is around 3,200,000 metric tons (7,055 million pounds) of rough rice, compared with 2,850,000 (6,285 million pounds) in the preceding year.

The trade estimate of the exportable surplus from this crop is some 250,000 to 300,000 metric tons of milled rice. Exports of milled rice in the January-June 1958 period totaled 113,938 tons, a sizable increase over the 88,527 tons exported in the first half of 1957. Destinations of the exports were (metric tons): Malaya, 47,453; the Philippines, 30,214; Indonesia, 28,413; French franc area, 4,251; other countries, 3,607.

EGYPT'S WHEAT CROP DOWN; 1959 ACREAGE TO INCREASE

Egypt's 1958 wheat crop, estimated at 51.9 million bushels, is the smallest harvest since 1952. The reduction is the result of a cut in acreage, as yields are indicated to be at a new high.

Acreage now being seeded for harvest in 1959 is expected to be back to normal, since the government has announced that growers must comply with an existing law fixing wheat acreage at not less than one-third of the total acreage under cultivation. In recent years the law has not been enforced.

Net imports during the current marketing season are expected to total at least 40 million bushels and may go as high as 45 million. Known contracts this season include one with Spain for about 15 million bushels of flour in grain equivalent, and one with the Soviet Union for about 5.5 million bushels of wheat. In addition, about 7 million bushels of Spanish wheat is being delivered this season under 1957-58 contracts.

ARGENTINE FROST HURTS PEARS

Frost in the Rio Negro Valley of Argentina has substantially reduced pear prospects but its effect on apples was slight, according to late trade reports.

The Rio Negro Valley produces the bulk of Argentina's export apples and pears. In 1957-58 it produced about 8 million boxes of apples and 3 million boxes of pears, out of Argentina's total crops of 12 million and 5 million boxes, respectively.

Rio Negro's pear crop this season is now expected to be down about 30 percent from 1957-58, and the apple crop up about 10 percent.

JAPAN'S WHEAT IMPORTS
UP IN 1957-58

Japan imported 2,359,534 metric tons of wheat in the year ending June 30, 1958. This was a 50,000-ton increase over imports during the previous year. Flour imports (grain equivalent) were down from 72,675 tons of 71,060 tons.

The United States and Canada were the principal sources of supply, as they have been in postwar years. Imports of U. S. wheat, however, were slightly lower in 1957-58 than in 1956-57, while those from Canada were up somewhat.

Imports from Australia during 1957-58 also increased over the preceding year, but did not equal the 314,000 metric tons imported during 1955-56. Imports from that country during July-December 1958 may be small because of the bad crop in Australia last season, but could well be stepped up in January-June 1959, in light of the trade agreement between the two countries and Australia's good crop prospects.

Imports from Argentina have been relatively low during the last 2 years, but may be stepped up in the current fiscal year if the export price is favorable.

Trade sources report that the Soviet Union, Italy, and Mexico are hopeful of becoming wheat exporters to Japan, and Uruguay may be considered as a possible source.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: Japanese imports, 1953-1957, years beginning July 1

Country of origin	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	: Metric				
	: tons				
<i>Wheat:</i>					
United States.....	1,161,269	903,481	1,045,032	1,338,560	1,186,454
Canada.....	994,794	711,974	822,645	877,791	990,500
Australia.....	6,109	27,673	313,548	100,307	180,727
Argentina.....	166,412	205,334	38,736	3,000	1,853
Others.....	300	--	--	--	--
	:	:	:	:	:
Total.....	2,328,884	1,848,462	2,219,961	2,319,658	2,359,534
<i>Flour (grain equivalent)</i>					
Total 1/	37,653	39,566	49,661	72,675	71,060

1/ Imports of flour not available by fiscal year; imports by calendar year show practically all came from the United States and Canada.

Compiled from official and other sources.

BRAZIL INCREASES BASIC SUPPORT
PRICE OF WHEAT 25 PERCENT

On November 12, the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil established 500 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (\$2.84 per bushel) as the basic price millers must pay producers for 1958-59 crop domestic wheat, in good condition, dry, and clean. This is 100 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (57 cents per bushel) above the 1957-58 price of 400 cruzeiros (\$2.27 per bushel).

However, the prices of the 6 grades of wheat which are above the basic grade in quality were increased less than this and those of the 6 lower quality wheats were increased more. The price of the highest of the 13 grades was increased only 94 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (54 cents per bushel), and the remaining increases range up to 106 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (60 cents per bushel) for the lowest grade.

WHEAT: Brazil, guaranteed producer prices, 1957-58 and 1958-59

Grade	1957-58		1958-59	
Pounds per bushel	Cruzeiros per 60 kg. bag	Dollars per bushel	Cruzeiros per 60 kg. bag	Dollars per bushel
65.3	424	2.40	518	2.94
64.5	420	2.38	515	2.92
63.7	416	2.36	512	2.90
62.9	412	2.34	509	2.89
62.1	408	2.31	506	2.87
61.4	404	2.29	503	2.85
60.6	400	2.27	500	2.84
59.8	396	2.25	497	2.82
59.0	392	2.22	494	2.80
58.3	388	2.20	491	2.78
57.5	384	2.18	488	2.77
56.7	380	2.15	485	2.75
55.9	376	2.13	482	2.73

In addition to these guaranteed prices, each wheat grower will receive a fixed bonus of 50 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (28.4 cents per bushel) on all 1958-59 crop wheat he sells. This bonus will be paid by the mills as part of the purchase price when they buy wheat from farmers. The Bank of Brazil will reimburse the mills.

Beginning in February 1959, a storage premium of 5 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (2.8 cents per bushel) per month will also be paid by the mills to farmers selling 1958-59 wheat.

The above prices are for bulk wheat, but a farmer may sell wheat in bags. In this case, the prices are increased by the value of the bags up to a maximum of 30 cruzeiros per 60-kg. bag (17 cents per bushel).

Nothing additional is paid to farmers who sell their wheat to mills in the interior of the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Parana. Farmers whose wheat is delivered at the coastal ports of these states, and the states of Porto Alegre and Pelotas, will be paid by the purchasers--as part of the purchase price--50 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (28.4 cents per bushel) to reimburse transport costs to the ports. The Bank of Brazil will also supply the funds required for this purpose.

The Wheat Expansion Service each season determines the quota of wheat which each mill may use during that season, and fixes the quantities of domestic and foreign wheat. A mill may, however, replace part or all of the foreign wheat in its quota with domestic. On the other hand, a mill which is unable to obtain all the domestic wheat in its quota is required to fill the quota with foreign wheat.

All wheat importing is done by the government. The 1958-59 price to the mills of imported wheat will be 500 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (\$2.84 per bushel), in bulk, c.i.f. ocean ports. For imported wheat in bags the price will be 30 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (17 cents per bushel) higher. To these prices will be added 85 cruzeiros per 60 kilos (48 cents per bushel) for imported wheat which mills have to purchase in lieu of domestic wheat to fill out their quotas.

The mills' 1958-59 total quotas and the quotas of domestic and foreign wheats have not yet been determined.

FINLAND FIXES 1958-59 FOOD GRAIN SUPPORT PRICES

A recent Cabinet decree fixed Finland's guaranteed producer prices for both wheat and rye during the 1958-59 (September-August) marketing season at 44.95 to 47.00 Finnmarks per kilo. This is equivalent to \$3.82 to \$4.00 per bushel for wheat and \$3.57 to \$3.73 per bushel for rye.

The lowest price in each instance is for deliveries during September. The price is then stepped up each month until January, when it reaches a maximum. It remains at this maximum for the rest of the season. The 1957-58 support prices for these grains ranged from 42.95 to 45 Finnmarks per kilo, equivalent to \$3.65 to \$3.83 per bushel for wheat and \$3.41 to \$3.57 per bushel for rye. The prices for rye are the averages of the prices established for (1) south and southwest Finland, and (2) the rest of the country. The prices for wheat are uniform throughout the country. (Continued on following page)

Although Finland's State Granary, a government agency, is obligated to buy at not less than the guaranteed price all of the domestic wheat and rye offered to it by growers, farmers are free to sell to the private trade. Flour millers occasionally pay more than the State Granary. In keeping with the increases in the producer prices, the State Granary has raised its sale price of domestic wheat to 47 Finnmarks per kilo, plus 1.75 marks for inland freight, (total, \$4.17 per bushel) and that of domestic rye to 45 marks per kilo (\$3.57 per bushel).

The State Granary exercises a monopoly over grain imports, exports, and reexports. Its operations also include price support purchasing, stockpiling, sales to domestic mills, supplying grains to government agencies and institutions, promoting domestic consumption, and assisting in the expansion of grain storage and drying facilities. The State Granary has increased the price at which it sells imported wheat to mills to the level of the domestic price.

INDIA ANNOUNCES EXPORT QUOTA FOR SESAME SEED

The Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry on November 19 announced an export quota of 5,000 long tons (5,600 short tons) for sesame seed. The seed is to be exported from November 1958 through April 1959.

URUGUAYAN VEGETABLE OIL OUTLOOK GENERALLY FAVORABLE

Uruguay's exports of linseed oil are expected to continue sizable in 1959, and its exports of sunflower seed oil may run between 6,500 and 7,500 short tons.

Imports of vegetable oils--chiefly coconut oil--may increase somewhat from the low level of 1958 if foreign exchange difficulties are overcome.

Supplies of sunflower seed oil in 1958 exceeded domestic needs by almost 10,000 tons, and unless the recent dry weather reduces the sunflower seed crop to be harvested next spring, a large part of this may be exported. Exporters have asked government approval to sell the surplus sunflower seed oil abroad, but it has not yet been granted.

Linseed oil exports in 1959 probably will be somewhat below the 23,150-ton shipments of 1958. Because of dry weather, the flaxseed crop to be harvested in the next 2 months is expected to be below the 2.4-million-bushel crop of 1957-58. Dryness both this season and last may cause a sharp reduction in flaxseed plantings to be made in July-October 1959.

VEGETABLE OILS: Uruguay, estimated supply and distribution,
1957 and 1958

December 8, 1958

Foreign Crops and Markets

23

SUPPLY							
Vegetable oil	Opening stocks, January 1	Production	Imports	Total supply			
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Edible:							
- Sunflower seed	5,512	1,211	32,262	0	0	21,936	33,473
Peanut	160	128	1,782	0	0	1,397	1,910
Cottonseed	2/	2/	30	0	0	30	28
Olive	78	70	880	372	63	1,330	1,013
Total	5,750	1,409	18,571	34,952	372	24,693	36,424
Industrial:							
Linseed	3,748	66	25,463	24,361	0	0	24,427
Other:							
Coconut	0	0	0	0	2,036	366	2,036
Other 3/	0	0	0	0	132	140	132
Total	0	0	0	0	2,168	506	2,168
Total supply	9,498	1,475	44,034	59,313	2,540	569	56,072
DISTRIBUTION							
	Consumption	Exports	Ending stocks, December 31	Total distribution			
Edible:							
- Sunflower seed	20,725	23,148	0	1,211	10,325	21,936	33,473
Peanut	1,269	1,910	0	128	2/	1,397	1,910
Cottonseed	30	28	0	2/	2/	30	28
Olive	1,260	947	0	70	66	1,330	1,013
Total	23,284	26,033	0	1,409	10,391	24,693	36,424
Industrial:							
Linseed	925	935	28,220	23,150	66	342	29,211
Other:							
Coconut	2,036	366	0	0	0	2,036	366
Other 3/	132	140	0	0	0	132	140
Total	2,168	506	0	0	0	2,168	506
Total distribution	26,377	27,474	28,220	23,150	1,475	10,733	56,072
1/ Partly estimated.	2/ Negligible.	3/ Includes mostly castor oil and other industrial oils.					
Compiled from official and other sources.							

MALAYAN EXPORTS OF PALM OIL, PALM KERNELS
UP IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR

Malayan exports of palm oil in the first six months of this year were 34,795 short tons, an increase of 15 percent from the first half of 1957. Palm kernel shipments of 9,559 tons were up 6 percent. Over half the palm oil went to the United Kingdom, while Japan took about 80 percent of the palm kernels.

PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS: Malaya, exports by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1957 and January-June 1957 and 1958

Continent and country of destination	Palm oil				Palm kernels			
	Average 1957 1/ 1935-39:		January-June 1957		Average 1957 1/ 1935-39:		January-June 1957	
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:								
Canada.....	17,977	11,274	2,895	9,120	--	--	--	--
United States.....	608	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total.....	18,585	11,274	2,895	9,120	--	--	--	--
Europe:								
Denmark.....	--	--	--	--	226	728	728	179
France.....	--	--	--	--	--	571	392	168
Germany, West.....	43	--	--	--	1,410	56	56	--
Greece.....	--	--	--	--	--	1,032	632	904
Italy.....	6	194	--	43	134	--	--	--
Netherlands.....	4	--	--	--	1,304	3,960	3,875	--
United Kingdom.....	23,270	32,387	15,544	18,187	2,115	2,078	1,910	756
Other.....	--	--	--	--	2,897	--	--	--
Total.....	23,323	32,581	15,544	18,230	8,086	8,425	7,593	2,007
Africa.....	915	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asia:								
India.....	908	23,034	11,620	6,096	--	--	--	--
Iraq.....	--	113	56	1,120	--	--	--	--
Japan.....	922	--	--	112	46	9,767	1,400	7,544
Philippines.....	245	457	--	102	--	--	--	--
Other.....	531	42	16	12	--	--	--	8
Total.....	2,606	23,646	11,692	7,442	46	9,767	1,400	7,552
Oceania.....	52	3	1	3	--	--	--	--
Unspecified.....	1,879	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grand total.....	47,360	67,504	30,132	34,795	8,132	18,192	8,993	9,559

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

**INDIA REDUCES COTTON
EXPORT TAX**

The Government of India announced on November 16, 1958, a reduction in the export tax for all varieties of cotton from 50 rupees per bale (2.68 U. S. cents per pound) to 25 rupees per bale (1.34 U. S. cents per pound).

The government also announced on November 16 that an additional 250,000 bales (400 pounds gross) of cotton would be released for export. This quota will consist of 100,000 bales of Bengal Desi, 100,000 bales of all varieties of 3/4-inch and shorter staple, and 50,000 bales stapling below 3/4-inch.

Total cotton released for export in the 1958-59 season (August-July) now stands at 646,200 bales. This includes 285,000 bales of Bengal Desi cotton, 261,200 bales of all varieties of 3/4-inch and shorter staple, 50,000 bales stapling under 3/4-inch, and 50,000 bales of 25/32-inch and shorter staple.

**DENMARK IMPORTS MORE U. S.
COTTON IN 1957-58**

Denmark imported 30,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of U.S. cotton during the 1957-58 season (August-July). This was an increase of 15 percent from imports of 26,000 bales in 1956-57.

Imports from all sources in 1957-58 were 41,000 bales, against 45,000 bales in 1956-57. In addition to the imports from the United States, 10,000 bales were imported from Peru, and small quantities were imported from Syria, Egypt, India, and Pakistan.

Cotton consumption in Denmark declined 7 percent in 1957-58, amounting to 38,000 bales, compared with 41,000 bales in 1956-57. The decline occurred during the last half of 1957-58, as there was some weakening in the domestic demand for Danish textiles. The weaker demand resulted from lower consumer purchasing power and larger imports of low priced textile goods.

Consumer purchasing power has improved in recent weeks, and a slight increase in both cotton consumption and imports is expected in 1958-59.

Cotton stocks were estimated at 12,000 bales on July 31, 1958, up 33 percent from stocks of 9,000 bales a year earlier.

BELGIAN COTTON INDUSTRY LESS ACTIVE IN 1957-58

Cotton imports into Belgium during the 1957-58 marketing season were 368,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This drop of 29 percent from imports of 515,000 bales in 1956-57 reflected the lower rate of mill consumption during the latter part of 1957-58.

Imports of U.S. cotton declined to 194,000 bales (53 percent of total imports), in comparison with 289,000 bales (56 percent of the total) in 1956-57. Smaller quantities were also received in 1957-58 from all other major suppliers except Mexico.

Principal sources of the 1957-58 imports, with comparable 1956-57 figures in parentheses, were: United States 194,000 bales (289,000); Belgian Congo 64,000 (72,000); Mexico 55,000 (52,000); Peru 27,000 (44,000); Egypt 5,000 (8,000); and the U.S.S.R. 5,000 (9,000).

Cotton consumption also declined during 1957-58. Amounting to 372,000 bales, it was down 17 percent from the 450,000 bales used in the previous season. However, the use of U.S. cotton increased to 210,000 bales (56 percent of total consumption), in comparison with 192,000 bales (43 percent of the total) in 1956-57. The lower total consumption in 1957-58 was attributed to cutbacks in yarn and fabric production during the last half of the season in an effort to reduce accumulating stocks of these goods.

Cotton yarn production during the first 11 months of 1957-58 was 24 percent below the corresponding period a year earlier, and cotton fabric output declined by 16 percent.

Cotton stocks on July 31, 1958, were estimated at 125,000 bales--down about 14 percent from stocks of 145,000 bales a year earlier.

In recent weeks, Belgian spinner demand for raw cotton has centered mainly on lower qualities of U.S. cotton, Mexican, and Central American growths.

INDIA ADOPTS STATE TRADING IN FOOD GRAINS

To ensure stable food grain prices, India's National Development Council decided on November 9 to introduce state monopoly into the wholesale food grain trade. As an interim measure, major wholesalers of grain in each state have been licensed to act as government agents. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture is working with the Planning Commission in setting up machinery to carry out this nationalization measure.

On the same date, the government prohibited the sale of imported food grains except through authorized dealers. A number of Indian states also have issued orders to control food grain purchases, stocks, and the licensing of dealers. As a result, wheat prices have declined at the principal Indian markets.

AUSTRALIA REDUCES PRICE OF LOW-QUALITY BUTTER

Australian low-quality (pastry grade) butter is to be sold to bakers and other domestic industries using bulk butter at the equivalent of 28.5 cents per pound.

Under Australia's uniform pricing procedure, only small quantities of the low-grade butter have been marketed domestically; most of it has been shipped to the United Kingdom, where it is currently quoted at about 27.8 cents per pound. About 2 to 3 percent of present Australian butter output is pastry grade.

As a result of this action, the Dairy Products Marketing Board expects to receive a greater return for low-quality butter and to improve the reputation of Australian butter by removing the poorer product from the U. K. market.

000

NEW PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Available (single copies) free to persons in the U.S. from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., Room 5922. Phone: REpublic 7-4142, Ext. 2445.

Commercial Walnut Production Up. Foreign Agriculture Circular FN 3-58.

The Agricultural Economy of The Sudan. FAS-M 45.

U.S. Soybean Exports Set Record in 1957-58; Oilseed Meals and Edible Oils Decline. Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO 15-58.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300
(PMGC)

Official Business